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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,788	03/23/2004	Flora Huang	386998048US	6024
25096	7590	04/18/2006	EXAMINER	
PERKINS COIE LLP			LABBEES, EDNY	
PATENT-SEA				
P.O. BOX 1247			ART UNIT	
SEATTLE, WA 98111-1247			PAPER NUMBER	
			2612	

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,788

Applicant(s)

HUANG, FLORA

Examiner

Edny Labbees

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida (US 2002/0112112) further in view of Sasagawa (US 6,704,506).

Regarding Claim 19, Yoshida discloses *Data Processing Method For Digital Camera* that has the following claimed limitations. Claimed indicating apparatus combined with a flash is met by a digital camera with a flash (see paras 0028); claimed flash module is met by flash projector (6) (see Fig. 1 and paras 28); Yoshida discloses one LED (8) situated nearby the flash projector (6) (see Fig. 1) blinking to indicate that the self timer is functioning (see paras [0008]). However, Yoshida does not disclose a system where pluralities of LEDs are around the claimed flash module. Sasagawa discloses *Illuminant-Equipped Camera* that teaches a plurality of illuminants (22) situated nearby the flash unit (16) to realize different forms of displaying the operating state of the camera (see Fig. 1, abstract, Col. 1 Ins 39-46, Col. 3 Ins 8-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Sasagawa into the system of Yoshida to indicate the operation of the camera in the form of multiple LEDs.

Regarding Claim 20, Yoshida discloses all of the claimed limitations. Claimed apparatus assembled in a digital camera is met by the system assembled within a digital camera (see paras 0028).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-18 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Independent claims 1 and 9 and its dependents appears to be allowable because it describes a novel apparatus utilizing a light guide rod around a flash module and protecting the flash module from electrostatic effects and an external force.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sensui, *Auxilliary Light Emitting Device And Focusing...* (US 5,870,637)

Moriya et al. *Lens-Fitted Photo Film Unit With Data Recording...* (US 6,243,536)

Yuyama et al. *Portable Compact Imaging And Displaying...* (US 5,612,732)

Brakilacchio, *LED White Light Optical System* (US 2003/0218880)

Fabry et al. *Liquid Crystal Indicator Preferably For Motor Vehicles* (US 5,063,379)

Hata, *Automatic Exposure Control Device For A Camera* (US 2001/0002949)

Yaron, *Capsule* (US 2001/0017649)

Motomura et al. *Photometry Device For Camera* (US 2002/0061191)

Matsumoto, *Multiple-Point Automatic Focusing Camera*, (US 6,377,753)

Sasaki et al. *Instant Camera And Recording Apparatus*, (US 2004/0136703)

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Correspondence

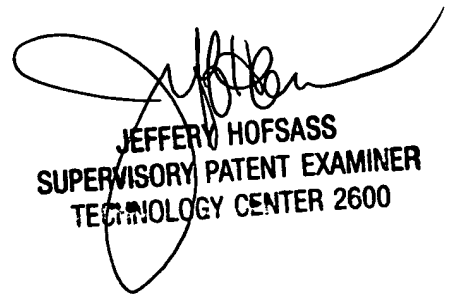
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edny Labbees whose telephone number is (571) 272-2793. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:00 - 3:30.

Art Unit: 2612

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Edny Labbees
4/4/06



JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600